AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a ceramic body, comprising casting ~~forming~~ a composition comprising a calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3%.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the mullite content of the calcined kaolin is in the range of from about 3% to about 40%.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the calcined kaolin has an LOI of less than about 1%.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the calcined kaolin has an LOI of less than about 0.5%

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the calcined kaolin has a median particle size of about 2 microns or less.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the calcined kaolin has a median particle size of about 5 microns or less.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a ball clay.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a crude clay having a kaolin content of about 90% or less.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a crude clay having a kaolin content of about 90% or less

and at least 0.1% of one or more of silica, crystalline silica, feldspar, alumina, calcined alumina, or other ceramic body material.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a crude clay having at least 0.1% of one or more of silica, crystalline silica, feldspar, alumina, calcined alumina, or other ceramic body material.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a crude clay having a silica content of about 1% or less.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a crude clay having a silica content of about 0.5% or less.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a gibbsitic kaolin

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the calcined kaolin has been prepared from a calcination feed produced using an air-float process.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the calcined kaolin has been prepared from a calcination feed produced from a water-wash process.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the particle size of the calcined kaolin has been modified.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the particle size of the calcined kaolin has been modified by attrition grinding.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the body is formed by pressure casting.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the body is formed by normal casting.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented) A method of modifying/increasing the casting rate of a cast body formulation comprising hydrous kaolin, the method comprising substituting at least 10% of the hydrous kaolin in the formulation with a calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3%.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the method comprises substituting at least 25% of the hydrous kaolin in the formulation with a calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3%.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the method comprises substituting at least 50% of the hydrous kaolin in the formulation with a calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3%.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the method comprises substituting at least 75% of the hydrous kaolin in the formulation with a calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3%.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of making a cast ~~formed~~ ceramic body, comprising casting a composition comprising a calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3% and a hydrous kaolin.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3% comprises at least 10% of the kaolin component of the composition.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) A cast ceramic body filter cake comprising a calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3%.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 29, wherein the calcined kaolin has an LOI of about 1% or less.

32. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 29, wherein the calcined kaolin has an LOI of about 0.5% or less.

33. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 29, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a ball clay.

34. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 29, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a crude clay having a kaolin content of less than about 90%.

35. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 29, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a crude clay having a kaolin content of less than about 90% and at least 0.1% of one or more of silica, crystalline silica, feldspar, alumina, calcined alumina, or other ceramic body material.

36. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 29, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a crude clay having a silica content of about 1% or less.

37. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 29, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a crude clay having a silica content of about 0.5% or less.

38. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 29, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a gibbsitic kaolin.

39. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 29, wherein the calcined kaolin has been prepared from a calcination feed produced from an air-float process.

40. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 29, wherein the calcined kaolin has been prepared from a calcination feed produced from a water-wash process.

41. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 29, wherein the particle size of the calcined kaolin has been modified.

42. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 41, wherein the particle size of the calcined kaolin has been modified by attrition grinding.

43. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 29, wherein the ceramic body filter cake is produced by filter pressing.

44. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 29, wherein the ceramic body filter cake is produced by vacuum filtration.

45. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic body filter cake of claim 29, wherein the ceramic body filter cake is produced by pressure filtration.

46. (Currently Amended) A method of modifying/increasing the filtration rate of a cast ceramic body filter cake comprising hydrous kaolin, the method comprising substituting at least 10% of the hydrous kaolin in the cast ceramic body filter cake with a calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3%.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the method comprises substituting at least 25% of the hydrous kaolin in the cast ceramic body filter cake with a calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3%.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the method comprises substituting at least 50% of the hydrous kaolin in the cast ceramic body filter cake with an a calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3%.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the method comprises substituting at least 75% of the hydrous kaolin in the cast ceramic body filter cake with a calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3%.

50. (Currently Amended) A method of making a cast ceramic body filter cake, comprising filtering a composition comprising a calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3%.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3% comprises at least 10% of the kaolin component of the composition.

52. (Currently Amended) A cast ceramic ware product comprising a calcined kaolin having a mullite content of at least about 3%.

53. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic ware product of claim 52, wherein said ceramic ware product is a cast ceramic ware product.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic ware product of claim 52, wherein said ceramic ware product comprises a dried greenware product.

56. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic ware product of claim 52, wherein said ceramic ware product comprises a fired ceramic product.

57. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic ware product of claim 52, wherein the calcined kaolin has an LOI of about 1.0% or less.

58. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic ware product of claim 52, wherein the calcined kaolin has an LOI of about 0.5% or less.

59. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic ware product of claim 52, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a ball clay.

60. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic ware product of claim 52, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a crude clay having a kaolin content of about 90% or less and at least 0.1% of one or more of silica, crystalline silica, feldspar, alumina, calcined alumina, or other ceramic body material.

61. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic ware product of claim 52, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a crude clay having a silica content of about 1% or less.

62. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic ware product of claim 51, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a crude clay having a silica content of about 0.5% or less.

63. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic ware product of claim 52, wherein said calcined kaolin is derived at least in part from a gibbsitic kaolin.

64. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic ware product of claim 52, wherein the calcined kaolin has been prepared from a calcination feed produced from an air-float process.

65. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic ware product of claim 52, wherein the calcined kaolin has been prepared from a calcination feed produced from a water-wash process.

66. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic ware product of claim 52 wherein the particle size of the calcined kaolin has been modified.

67. (Currently Amended) The cast ceramic ware product of claim 52, wherein the particle size modification comprised attrition grinding.